

“Jesus Is...” - LESSON 4

“Jesus Is...EVERLASTING FATHER”

Main Focus:

Our Heavenly Father loved us so much, He sent Jesus to save us



Power Verse:

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

- 1 John 3:1



Watt’s Up:

“My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

LEADER’S INFO

Many children today are forced to live without a Dad. Whether it’s because of divorce or pre-marital pregnancy, living without a Dad is very difficult for children to cope with.

While living without a Dad can be hard, children can rest in the fact that we ALL have an incredible Heavenly Father who has promised to be there for us no matter what. If times get tough, He’s there. If we mess up and sin, He’s still there. He’s not going to leave us no matter what!

In this lesson, the children will learn that all of us have the same Heavenly Father who is perfect in every way! He is our Everlasting Father that we can depend on - no matter what!



“The Spark” Intro Video

The Christmas Spelling Bee



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Clyde The Elf”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Wrap It Up”



Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”



Power Verse Video

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” - 1 John 3:1



Call To Action

“Jesus Is...EVERLASTING FATHER”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

Our Heavenly Father loved us so much, He sent Jesus to save us



Power Verse:

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

- 1 John 3:1



Watt’s Up:

“My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

Lesson 4 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “The Spark” Intro Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Clyde The Elf” Theme Graphic/Music
- Elf costume

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Wrap It Up” Graphic
- Two large rolls of Christmas wrapping paper
- Two pairs of scissors
- Two rolls of scratch tape

Bible Story

- “Jesus Obeys” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Jesus Is... EVERLASTING FATHER” Graphics

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 4 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Our Father Is Print Piece
- Construction Paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Heavenly Father Print Piece
- Bibles

“The Spark” Intro Video

The Christmas Spelling Bee

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Character Skit

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Offering Time

Game On!

“Wrap It Up”

Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”

Power Verse Video

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!” - 1 John 3:1

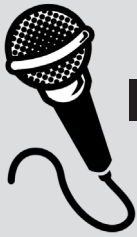
Call To Action

“Jesus Is...EVERLASTING FATHER”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey kids! Today, we are continuing our series, “Jesus Is...” It’s ALL about Christmas! Today, we are going to talk about another name that was used to describe Jesus in Isaiah’s prophecy. But, I have a question for you. Did you know that the person on your right is related to you? Not only that, but did you know that the person on your left is also related to you?

It’s true! Everyone who is a Christian, that’s right - ALL Christians are related! Do you know how? It’s because we all have the SAME father! I know, I am probably confusing you. I promise - I will explain it in a moment. But, first I want us to check in on our awesome Spelling Bee contestants and see how they are doing...

(play “The Spark” Intro Video)

Leader: So, now do you get it? Jesus was called the “Everlasting Father.” God is our Heavenly Father who loves us so much! And, even though our Earthly fathers are not perfect - God IS! He is our perfect Heavenly Father that we can always count on. He is our Everlasting Father.

But, before we get too far into learning about all of that, let’s check in with Skittles and find out “Watt’s Up?”

(play “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video)

CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Clyde The Elf” *(a scatter-brained young man who works at the local mall as an elf at Santa’s Photo Booth. He’s dressed in the usual elf attire—pointed ears, lots of green and red, etc. He’s very excitable.)*

CLYDE: *(slowly, sadly, walks out onto the stage, with his head down and his hands in his pockets)*

Leader: Hey there, Clyde! Merry Christmas!

CLYDE: *(shrugs, mumbling to himself)*

Leader: Oh, dear. You’re not looking very merry at all.

CLYDE: *(shrugs and mumbles again)*

Leader: What’s the matter? What’s wrong?

CLYDE: Nothin’, I guess. Just, feeling...y’know...kinda...

Leader: Kind of what?

CLYDE: It’s hard to explain. Kind of a mix between *(makes a long “blech” noise)* and *(blows a long raspberry)*...

Leader: That sounds bad. And gross.

CLYDE: Well it’s how I feel!

Leader: What’s happened that’s gotten you feeling so...so...how did you put it?

CLYDE: *(blows another long, loud raspberry)*

Leader: *(acts like they are wiping spit from their eye)* Yeah. That.

CLYDE: I think it’s because of my dad - Claude.

Leader: Claude?

CLYDE: Yeah, Claude the Christmas Elf. We come from a long, proud line of M.S.H.’s.

Leader: What’s an M.S.H.?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

CLYDE: “Mall Santa Helpers.” He’s in charge of the Christmas section of this HUUUUUGE department store in New York City - and he said that he was going to come visit me this Christmas! I was so excited - I was going to get to show my dad that I could be in charge, just like him! But then....but then...

Leader: But then...what?

CLYDE: *(tries to stifle off a cry for a few moments, sniffles, then breaks down into HUGE SOBS)* A REINDEER BIT HIS BELLYBUTTON!

Leader: WHAT?!

CLYDE: *(talks between sobs)* He was feeding the reindeer and had a bunch of extra carrots tucked in his belt and a reindeer chomped onto his bellybutton and now he’s in the hospital and says he won’t be able to come visit me for Christmas! *(leans hard onto the leader, wrapping his arms around them, crying hard)* What am I gonna do?! It stinks not having a dad around Christmas? Do you hear me?! *(stomps his feet)* It STINKS, STINKS, STINKS!

Leader: Oh dear. Clyde, I’m so so sorry. You’re right - that is really tough. But, you know, whenever life gets difficult, you can remember that you have a HEAVENLY father!

CLYDE: What do you mean?

Leader: Did you know that you’re a child of God? Since God made you, that means you belong to Him! You’re one of his children!

CLYDE: Wow...I’ve never thought about it like that before.

Leader: Yeah! And He’s an EVERLASTING Father - He’s always there! And He LOVES you! He won’t ever leave you! There may be times when grown-ups may let us down, but God NEVER will! I’m sorry that your dad can’t be there, but God always will be. No matter what!

CLYDE: Wow - thanks! I kinda don’t feel so *(blows raspberry into the leader’s face)* anymore, knowing that God is always there for me. Thanks! You’ve...you’ve got a little something *(wipes the spit off of the leader’s face)* I better get back to work. I’ll see you later, boys and girls! Ho, ho, ho, and away I go! *(dances around, blows a raspberry one last time as his theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Wrap It Up”

Items Needed For Game:

two large rolls of Christmas wrapping paper; two pairs of scissors; two rolls of Scotch tape



Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to compete in this game.



How To Play:

Have the teams pick one person to be the “gift” and two people to be the “wrappers.”

When you say, “Go!”, the “wrappers must try to wrap the “gift” up in as much wrapping paper as they can. Give them 90 seconds to wrap the “gift.” At the end of the 90 seconds, choose a winner based on which “gift” is wrapped up the most.



Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the passage in Matthew 1:20-25; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew, chapter 1. Before Jesus was born, the angel of God had appeared to his mother Mary and told her that God had placed a baby in her tummy. She was to name him Jesus, and He would be the Savior of the world.

Well, Joseph, Mary’s fiance, was having a difficult time believing this. He wasn’t sure how to handle a fiance who thinks she’s seeing angels and having God’s son. (*show pic*) He decided he would just break off his engagement to Mary quietly. He didn’t want to bring any shame upon Mary at all. He loved her, but was just very confused about it all.

Well, just when Joseph was going to break off his engagement, guess who appeared to him as well? (*show pic*) That’s right! The angel appeared to him, also, and told him, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” Joseph was a little scared by the angel appearing out of nowhere, I am sure. But he listened very carefully as the angel gave him God’s instructions.

(*show pic*) “She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus.” Now, you have to understand something. Back in those days, the name you gave to a child was very important. It often carried meaning with it. Joseph had probably already thought about what name he was going to give his first-born son. Now, the angel was telling him that God already had a name picked out.

It would have been easy for Joseph to say, “No.” He could have ignored the angel’s instructions and just continued with his plan to break off his engagement with Mary. But, that is not what he did at all. (*show pic*) Joseph did exactly as the angel told him to do. He obeyed, even though it meant that everyone else would not understand. He obeyed God’s plan even though it was a very hard thing to do.

Because of his obedience, Joseph became the earthly father of Jesus. In your lesson today, you are going to learn how God is our EVERLASTING FATHER! He will always love us, and he will never leave us!





Call To Action

“Jesus Is EVERLASTING FATHER”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Jesus Is... EVERLASTING FATHER”

The Message: *(title slide)*



I want everyone to close your eyes and I want you to picture what your family looks like. What does it look like? *(allow response)* We have a lot of different families represented in this room. All of our families are different, and that is really cool. Some families have pets. Some of you live with your mom and dad. Some of you might live with your grandparents. You could even just live with your mom or your dad. It's cool to think about how a group of kids with completely different families can come together.

Yes, our families look different. And the way your family looks might make you happy or sad. But no matter what your family looks like or who you live with there is one thing that will never change...

You Are A Child Of God *(slide)*



We all belong to God. The Bible even tells us some amazing things about how we are child of God. Genesis 1:27 says “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Psalm 139:16 says “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

God created you the way he wanted you to be. You are a child of God. And nothing can ever change that. No matter where you go, no matter what you do you will always be a child of God. And because we belong to God he is our Father.

Some of you don't have a father in your life. I know it's tough and not easy to not have a father. But God is your father, and He is an Everlasting Father! And...

Your Everlasting Father Loves You *(slide)*



God loves you. The Bible says before you were born, God knew you. Before you spoke a word, He knew you. Before you ever committed a sin, God knew you would and chose to love you anyway. He loves you so much He sent His only Son to earth as a baby to live and to die on the cross for you. He loves you.

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

I John 3:1 says “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

And you might be thinking, “But how can God love me? I don’t feel loved.” How you feel doesn’t affect the decision God made about you. He loves you, in spite of your faults and failures. He knows you fully and loves you deeply. And he does so many things to love you.

Your Everlasting Father listens to you. He hears you. He doesn’t turn you away or ignore you. He is a good Father. He has good gifts for His children. Luke 11:9-10 says “...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Your Everlasting Father takes care of you and provides for you. He will always be there and is watching out for you. Matthew 6 says “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.”

Your Everlasting Father protects you and keeps you safe. No matter what comes against you, you are a child of God. Nothing can steal you from Him. Nothing can take Him away. In Him, and with Him you find rest, refuge, peace and safety. Isaiah 41:10 says “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Your Everlasting Father loves you enough to do all these things for you. God will always listen to, provide for, and protect you.

You’ve heard me say a word several times today. Everlasting. Who knows what that word means? That’s right - it’s forever. So when I say God is your Everlasting Father it means...

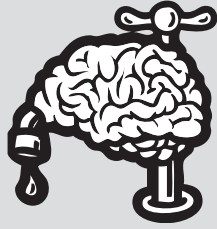


Your Everlasting Father Won’t Leave You *(slide)*

He will not walk away from you, abandon you or give up on you. He is always there - forever. You can walk away from Him, but if you do, He is always waiting to welcome you home. His love is everlasting and eternal.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for kids to remember that no matter what happens God will always be there. God will never leave, he will always listen, and that he will provide for and protect them. Also, this is a chance to pray for kids that don’t have an earthly father, and that they would be comforted in knowing that God is their Father.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

2. What is the name of the man in our Bible Story today?

Answer: Joseph

3. True or False: Joseph was excited about what the angel told Mary.

Answer: False

4. Who appeared to Joseph?

Answer: An Angel

5. What phrase did Isaiah use to describe Jesus that we learned about today?

Answer: Everlasting Father

6. According to our lesson today, “You Are A ____ Of God.”

Answer: Child

7. According to our lesson today, “Your Everlasting Father ____ You.”

Answer: Loves

8. According to our lesson today, “Your Everlasting Father Won’t ____ You.”

Answer: Leave

9. True Or False: God will never leave us.

Answer: True

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I John 3:1